

SUBJECTS.

But I cannot hold out much hope of anything being done in the immediate future in those directions.

In regard to providing manual training in schools, Government hopes to take action at an early date.

58. Admission of Elava children into public schools.

Mr. M. Govindan (Member, S. N. D. P. Yogam, Trivandrum) presented a memorial on the subject of free admission of Elavas into all public schools, signed by 64 Representatives of the Assembly, and requested that Government might be pleased to bestow their kind consideration on the subject. He said that one of the great disabilities of the Elavas, who formed a large class of taxpayers in Travancore, was that they were being denied admission into many public schools. The girls' schools throughout the State into which Elava girls were being admitted numbered less than half a dozen. The answer given at the last session was that the unrestricted admission of Elava girls into caste schools was not then feasible. To say that almost all Government schools were only caste schools for the education of the children of a few classes was to beg the question. Proximity to temples and palaces was another objection raised against admission into some vernacular schools. He said he was not aware of any instance of a school situated within the premises of a palace or temple used as such. Regarding their proximity outside the premises, he did not think any valid objection could be raised at this time of the day. The phrases 'caste schools' and 'proximity to temples and palaces' were so vague and indefinite that subordinate educational officers were making use of them effectually to exclude Elavas from all schools into which they had not previously got admission. He instanced the case of the Government school at Varkalai into which Elavas were refused admission on one pretext or other. The member finally referred to the exclusion of the Elavas from the Ayurvedic Patasala and the Sanskrit College and said that Elavas were not admitted even for the Ayurvedic examination, though they qualified themselves for appearing.

Mr. K. Narayana Panicker (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) spoke in support of the representation.

Dewan's reply.—All Government institutions are now open to members of the Elava community *theoretically*. The Elava members, however, complain that, *in practice*, their children do not always get admission. Now, we have a certain number of schools which are situated in

SUBJECTS

localities to which the Elava community cannot have access, such as very near temples or palaces. As long as these schools are so situated, the exclusion must prevail. I do not justify the exclusion, but the fact remains that the schools are so situated as to debar Elava children. Government will now call for a list of all schools so situated and try to transfer them to localities to which all classes of the people may have access. We will make it our policy to remove our schools to unobjectionable places.

Secondly, in regard to girls' schools, the effect of putting the Elava girls in them will probably be to empty the schools of the caste girls. An experiment like that may produce serious results. We cannot jeopardize female education like that. Government are, however, prepared to give favourable consideration to applications for grants for girls' schools specially opened for Elava girls. If members of the Elava community open schools of their own, we shall give them liberal grants. If they are so backward and poor as not to be able to do that, we are prepared to open schools of our own for them.

Thirdly, in regard to the Sanskrit College and the Ayurvedic Patasala, I find that they are now so situated that the members of your community could not go to them. We are not now prepared to throw them open to Elavas. But in regard to admission to the examination referred to by both the members, if any Elava wants to appear for the examination, we shall make special arrangements for his being examined, and give him a certificate if he passes the examination. All that I have so far said is about Government schools.

In regard to aided institutions, Government leave the matter entirely to the managers and are not prepared to lay down any policy for them.

59. Abolition of the Philosophy chair in His Highness' College.

Mr. H. Mahadeva Iyer (Member, S. M. R. V. Association, Trivandrum) prayed for the revival of the Philosophy chair in His Highness the Maha Raja's College.

Dewan's reply.—The Philosophy chair in the Trivandrum College has been ordered to be abolished with effect from the next session. Government are not prepared to re-consider their decision.

60. Technical Education.

Mr. D. Govinda Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) urged that the present system of education should be reformed and technical education introduced. He pointed